



## **Indiana's Salute to Women** **2005 Torchbearer Award Winners**

### **Journalism - Carolene Mays, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Indiana State University

Publisher, businesswoman and politician, Carolene Mays' stewardship of The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper, her work on a public affairs TV show ROAR, and her role as State Representative has made her one of Indianapolis' most visible entrepreneurs. Among many honors, Mays is recipient of the Legislator of the Year Award from the Indiana Minority Health Coalition. Nominating entity Indiana State University, where Ms. Mays graduated in 1985, stresses that Mays has "dealt with prejudice, escaped from an abusive marriage, built a successful business career in a male-dominated industry and resurrected one of the oldest surviving African American newspapers from near extinction... Mays embodies all the characteristics we would like to have in our friends, daughters, sisters, mothers..."

### **Public/Private Partnership - Patricia Keiffner, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Patricia Keiffner's dedication to education has manifested in diverse ways, including the publication of three periodicals used by the Department of Education to benefit Indiana students. Ms. Keiffner publishes Next Indiana, which details options for high school students planning for higher learning. Her next innovation was GRAD, made available to every college junior and senior; extolling the rich opportunities that awaits them for further education and employment here in Indiana. Director of Production and Contract Publishing at IBJ Corporation, Ms. Keiffner also created and publishes PREP, designed as a vehicle to encourage eighth graders to take a more rigorous high school curriculum. In addition, Ms. Keiffner is involved with many organizations, including the Humane Society, the Pacers Foundation and the Indiana Fever.

### **Labor Advocate - Alta Chrapliwy, South Bend**

Nominated by: Indiana Women's History Association

Alta Chrapliwy is legendary for her seven-year battle with corporate giant Uniroyal over women's rights to fair employment. In the late '60's, this single mother of two recognized that Uniroyal was terminating women while male co-workers with less seniority were retaining their jobs. She brought a suit that resulted in the EEOC finding reasonable cause that Uniroyal-Mishawaka engaged in sex discrimination. "Nothing would have changed if we gave up," Ms. Chrapliwy recalls. "No matter where you went you had to look over your shoulder, watch your back." Her victory, according to nomination organization Indiana Women's History Association, "broke open how women were treated in state and national factories."

### **Volunteerism - Claudette Einhorn, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Planned Parenthood of Indiana

Claudette Einhorn is a volunteer, philanthropist and non-profit leader in groups that span from arts to humanitarian to Jewish organizations. She's lent her tireless talents to a variety of groups, including the Jewish Community Center, Gleaners Food Bank, the Heartland Film Festival, the Phoenix Theatre and the Indianapolis Opera. Nominating organization Planned Parenthood of

Indiana says Ms. Einhorn “recognizes the importance of making informed reproductive decisions and having access to quality affordable health care.” PPI adds Ms. Einhorn is “involved, active, on-the-ball and truly making a difference in our community,” including her “ability to light up a room and inspire her peers in whatever task is at hand.”

**Women’s Studies - Bonnie Bazata, South Bend**

Nominated by: Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership, St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame

Director of Community Connections for the Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana, Bonnie Bazata, has developed innovative programming that encourages women’s intercultural leadership. Programs she has created include the Wellsprings of Wisdom Conference, Women in Leadership in community Organizations, the Catalyst Project and the Model of Women’s Intercultural Leadership. Her nominating organization says Ms. Bazata has “built new bridges between academia and local communities to change women’s lives in Indiana [inspiring them] to overcome barriers of equality to make a difference in their communities.” She is, they say, “building a better Indiana today and [strengthening] Indiana’s women leaders of tomorrow.”

**Health & Medicine (tie) - Catherine Winslow, Carmel**

Nominated by: Winslow Facial Plastic Surgery Group

A facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Winslow attained the highest score in the nation on the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Other honors bestowed upon this IU School of Medicine graduate include being The White House’s first Otolaryngology Consultant. Former Chief of Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgery at Walter Reed Hospital, Dr. Winslow now manages her own practice in Carmel. Her philanthropic activities involve raising money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and donating time to perform reconstructive cases at Wishard. Writing and teaching are also high priorities for Dr. Winslow who, according to her nominators, “has been consistent in setting new standards for excellence in the male dominated fields of medicine and military service.”

**Health & Medicine (tie) - Julie Novak, Lafayette**

Nominated by: City of Lafayette

Head of the School of Nursing and Associate Dean of Purdue University, Dr. Julie Novak is a prolific author, grant writer and committed educator. Her current projects include serving as Chairperson for the Tobacco Control Partnership of Tippecanoe County along with a campaign called KYSS that raised awareness to reduce psychosocial morbidities in children, adolescents and families. Overall, Dr. Novak is dedicated to bringing the subject of mental health into the community spotlight. Nominator Cindy Murray, City Clerk of Lafayette, says, “With Dr. Novak’s knowledge, leadership and preemptive vision, she will continue to make our community a healthier and safe place for all to live and visit.”

**Finance - Connie Nass, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Office of the Auditor of State of Indiana

Indiana Auditor of State Connie Nass has been a constant contributor, influence and mentor within all levels of state government for the past 25 years. The former mayor of Huntingburg, Indiana, Ms. Nass campaigned for the office of Lieutenant Governor for two years, before bowing out in lieu of Sue Ann Gilroy’s candidacy. Elected in 1998 as Auditor, Ms. Nass has crusaded to improve communication between local and state government as well as with Indiana citizens, as exemplified by her biannual publication “A Report to Indiana Citizens on the State’s Finances.” Among the many honors and awards she’s received are the 2005 Leadership Recognition Award and an Honorary Doctoral Degree of Humanities from Oakland City University.

**Engineering & Architecture - Mary Lou Schnell, Loogootee**

Nominated by: Indiana Association of County Commissioners

Upon the death of her husband, Mary Lou Schnell accepted the appointment to complete his term as Dubois County Commissioner. This led to a three - term occupancy of that office; her

accomplishments during that tenure include the renovation of the Dubois Courthouse and the building of a new jail. In the late '90's, Ms. Schnell became the first female president of the Indiana Association of County Commissioners. Supporters note her "leadership and insight," along with her "exceptional ability to recognize opportunities as they develop, prepare a plan of action, and act decisively." Currently a client administrator for Midwestern Engineers, Inc., Ms. Schnell continues her dedication, as another nominator says, "to provide for the development of Southern Indiana."

#### **Women in Government - Teresa Lubbers, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Ice Miller

Overcoming significant odds, Teresa Lubbers was elected to the Indiana State Senate for District 30 in 1992, then re-elected in '96, 2000 and 2004. Senator Lubbers, who chairs the Indiana Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, focuses on issues of education, economic development and fiscal responsibility. In addition, she is the mind behind the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series. For her public service and legislative work, she received a Sagamore of the Wabash. She finds time to volunteer for organizations such as the Indiana School for the Blind and YMCA of Greater Indianapolis. Nominating entity Ice Miller calls Ms. Lubber's "a natural leader" whose talents involve "looking for opportunities for positive change and then implementing creative solutions."

#### **Advocacy - Diane Kavadias Schneider, Hammond**

Nominated by: Volunteer Advocates for Seniors

A longtime advocate for youth and elderly in Indiana Judge Schneider was appointed by Governor Frank O'Bannon to the Lake Superior Court, Civil Division, in 2000. Judge Schneider currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Judges and is a member of the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on race and Gender Fairness. Recently, she co-founded the Volunteer Advocates for Seniors (VAS) Program to aid society's forgotten and incapacitated elderly. Colleagues at VAS say that this first generation daughter of immigrants has "proven...to be a true catalyst for positive change and distinguished her as an outstanding torchbearer for making Indiana a better place to live."

#### **Sports & Fitness - Mitzi Witchger, Noblesville**

Nominated by: American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Mitzi Witchger is nationally known for her support of Title IX, which provides that girls and women have equal access to the educational opportunities offered at all institutions of education who receive federal funding. Currently the Public Policy Chair for the Indiana American Association of University Women, Ms. Witchger is a gender equity consultant, advocating for equitable sports opportunity for both girls and boys. Her activities include writing, consulting and presenting on panels throughout the country; she is involved with Women's Sports Foundation Advisory Board and the Women's Athletics Task Force. Nominators describe her as "a person of great dedication to the cause of equity in education for women; a woman who has made an impact both statewide and nationally."

#### **Public Relations & Marketing - Diane McCabe, Zionsville**

Nominated by: Excellence in Public Services Series, Inc.

Former Director of Public Relations and Marketing at St. Vincent Hospital, Dianne McCabe serves on the Board of Governors for the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series and the Mayor's Task Force on Community-Wide Disaster Preparedness for Indianapolis. Ms. McCabe says her "guiding principle is to empower women to take charge of their health through coaching and educating about the importance of "knowing their bodies." After discovering she was suffering from breast cancer she became active in the Indiana Breast Cancer Coalition as well as becoming a founding member of the Breast Cancer Awareness League (now known as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation) – both examples of what Ms. McCabe calls "positive initiative."

**Public Safety - Heather Bolejack, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

At age 31, Heather Bolejack is the youngest woman leading a state agency: she is Executive Director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels in April of 2005. Ms. Bolejack is responsible for directing the war against methamphetamine abuse, recently launching a program called Meth Watch, which educates communities about what has been termed "the plague of Indiana." Other focus areas include fighting domestic violence, improving traffic safety and reducing gang violence. A graduate of Butler University and IU School of Law, she recently led the Indiana Young Women's Empowerment Conference, giving young women a first hand account of overcoming obstacles to forge a successful career.

**Education - Jo Ann Gora, Muncie**

Nominated by: Ice Miller

In 2004, Jo Ann Gora became the 14<sup>th</sup> president of Ball State University and the first woman president of major public university in Indiana. Her responsibilities include providing oversight and strategic direction for Indiana's fourth largest public university-an institution comprised of more than 800 full-time faculty, 3500 employees and 18,000 students. The former chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Gora recently launched a \$12 million campaign to renovate and expand Ball State's football stadium; her commitment to leading-edge technology has brought BSU nationwide attention. Her supporters say, "For over 25 years, Gora has broken down barriers for women in higher education and sought to enhance the quality of life for both teachers and students alike."

**Social Services - Alecia DeCoudreaux, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: United Way of Central Indiana

Secretary and general counsel for Eli Lilly and Company, Alecia DeCoudreaux is a powerful philanthropic force for two organizations in particular: United Way of Central Indiana and the Women's Fund of Central Indiana. Ms. DeCoudreaux sees this as a complementary relationship: "United Way initiative encourages more women to be involved in leadership giving [while] the Women's Fund specifically provides funding for women and girls." Her nominators point out that in just three short years, "Women's Fund of Central Indiana went from an interesting notion to an endowment of \$4 million." Ms. DeCoudreaux has this advice: "Give as generously as you can of your time and resources, believe what you tell others about what you support, and be passionate about issues that matter to you the most."

**International Community - Mary Jane Gonzalez, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

As Vice President of Business Development of Mezzetta Construction, a minority-and Hispanic women-owned business, Mary Jane Gonzalez is primarily responsible for marketing and business development within public and private sectors. She is the former Regional Director for the Central Indiana Small Business Development Center and spent over a decade with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. In addition, her volunteer activities range from United Way of Indiana to Indianapolis Children's Bureau to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Gonzalez has this to say to women interested in starting a business: "Don't be afraid to pursue a dream. The only way we grow is to take some risks in our endeavors."

**The Law - Sheila Jenkins, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Indiana Association for Community Economic Development

Sheila Jenkins is Executive Director of The Community Development Law Center, a no-profit organization that provides legal services and counsel to community-based organizations. In this and other capacities, Ms. Jenkins has dedicated over 20 years to helping those most vulnerable and least able to advocate for themselves: victims of domestic abuse, the homeless, Hispanic

immigrants and the mentally and/or physically challenged. Additionally, among numerous volunteer activities, Ms. Jenkins provides pro bono legal services for the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic and Heartland Pro Bono Council. Nominating organization Indiana Association for Community Economic Development says that Ms. Jenkins “demonstrates the best that women in leadership have to offer our community: passion, caring, intelligence and humility.”

### **Entrepreneurial & Management - Anne Shane, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: MARC USA

As Vice President of BioCrossroads, Anne Shane is at the nexus of efforts to lure life sciences to Indiana’s economy and culture. Combining what one supporter calls “quiet diplomacy and relentless cheerleading,” Ms. Shane excels at building partnerships between government, private industry and academia; as a nominator says: “If the simplest definition of entrepreneurship is transforming a good idea into successful reality, then Anne Shane’s career has been characterized by an entrepreneurial focus.” Her many accomplishments include her management of five political campaigns for former Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, along with serving as his Chief of Staff. Her many volunteer efforts include her involvement with United Way, the Children’s Museum, the Nature Conservancy, and The Eiteljorg Museum.

### **Keeper of the Light - Eva Kor, Terre Haute**

Nominated by: Indiana State University

A survivor of Auschwitz, Eva Kor has spent her lifetime educating about the Holocaust. She lost both parents and two older sisters, and then suffered through numerous experiments, along with her twin sister, Miriam, as part of Dr. Josef Mengele’s infamous experiments on twins. Ms. Kor’s concentration camp was liberated in 1945; both girls moved to Israel by 1950 to be raised by family. Ms. Kor married and moved to Terre Haute where she entered Indiana State University, earning a degree at the age of 56. In 1995 she created CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute in memory of Miriam who died ’93. The museum was destroyed in 2003 by arson and subsequently rebuilt. Despite all she’s been through, Ms. Kor denies being a victim. “Don’t pity me. Envy me,” she says. “I survived and I function and I have overcome unbelievable evil.”

### **Heart of Indiana - Patricia Barnes, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Indiana Women’s History Association

Lawyer, legal writer, award-winning documentary filmmaker, book author, and journalist, Patricia Barnes currently serves on the Indiana Women’s History Association of Directors. As IWHA President from 2002-2003, Ms. Barnes organized a celebration on the history of Title IX, which advocates that girls and women have equal access to the educational opportunities, and she subsequently wrote and produced a documentary on Title IX. Ms. Barnes garnered a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1982 for a series of articles written on drug trafficking. A practicing attorney and prolific writer, Ms. Barnes notes “women still encounter significant sex discrimination” and that she feels “a sense of obligation to insure that our history is not forgotten and that we continue to make gains.”

### **Lifetime Achievement - Margaret Curtis, Sheridan**

Nominated by: Planned Parenthood of Indiana

Margaret Curtis has spent a half-century working for the rights of women to control their reproductive lives. Volunteering with the Planned Parenthood in the late ‘40’s eventually led to her founding, in 1965, Planned Parenthood of Delaware County. Over the years she has served as activist, volunteer, fundraiser, donor and fundraiser for the organization. Ms. Curtis has always been a vocal proponent of responsible, comprehensive sex education as a key to preventing unintended pregnancies and STD’s. Now approaching her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, she is still active in the organization, composing letters as part of a capital campaign for a new Planned Parenthood clinic in Muncie. Supporters call her “an inspiration by word and example for all.”

**Trailblazer - Virginia Dill McCarty, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Indiana Women's History Association

Virginia Dill McCarty's distinguished career stretches for more than 40 years. Her role as Assistant Indiana Attorney General and Chief Counsel to the Marion County Prosecutor led to her appointment, by President Jimmy Carter, as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. Among numerous current responsibilities, Ms. McCarty is Chairman of the Board of the Indiana Department of Correction. A partner in the law firm of Landman & Beatty, she defends housing and employment discrimination claims. Nominators stress that Ms. McCarty has been "a colleague, a mentor and a friend to many, many younger attorneys and she has set a high bar for those women who aspire to ... serve their community..."

**Vision for Tomorrow - Carol D'Amico, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: Ice Miller

Dr. Carol D'Amico is Executive Vice President of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College-Central Indiana. Her responsibilities include providing leadership and direction to 14,500 students and 800 staff members at Indiana's largest community college. A nationally recognized expert on education and workforce development, Dr. D'Amico was appointed by President Bush in 2001 to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. D'Amico is also involved with local organizations such as the Sagamore Institute, the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana Dollars for Scholars. Nominating entity Ice Miller says "D'Amico has made it her lifelong pursuit to make education accessible to everyone, regardless of race, status or income."

**Community Spirit - Angela Barron McBride, Indianapolis**

Nominated by: The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

Dr. McBride, Dean Emerita of IU School of Nursing and recipient of six honorary doctorates, is author of a number of books, including *The Growth and Development of Mothers*, recognized as one of the best books of 1973 by the New York Times and the American Journal of Nursing. Nominating organization The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University cited Dr. McBride's 12 years as dean of the School of Nursing, where she launched successful programs such as Shalom Health Care and Healthy Families Indiana, saying: Dr. McBride "not only has had an impact on Indiana citizens, but also on Hoosier women who seek an exemplary leader after whom to pattern their own professional work."

**Woman of Promise - Kelly Frank, Spencer**

Nominated by: Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Executive Director of College Mentors for Kids! Inc. (CMFK!), Kelly Frank graduated from IU in 1999. CMFK! cultivates ongoing one-on-one relationships between college-and elementary-aged students, helping children develop a larger sense of the world. A member of the Rotary Club of Indianapolis, Ms. Frank's many other affiliations include the Indiana Youth Institute and the Indianapolis Charm School. Additionally, she was a finalist in the 2005 Indianapolis' Best & Brightest Under Forty. Nominating entity Rhonda Dalton, with the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, says "As a first generation college student at Indiana University, Frank's personal awareness of the difference that exposing a young child to higher education can make led her to CMFK!"